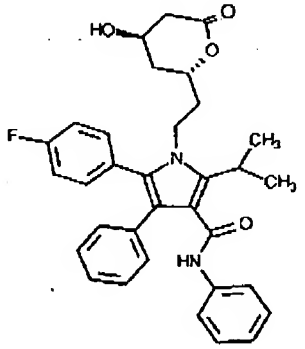
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims, in which deleted text appears struck through and inserted text appears underlined, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application. It is believed that there are no amendments made to the claims.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium which comprises:

(a) hydrolysis of the atorvastatin lactone of formula II



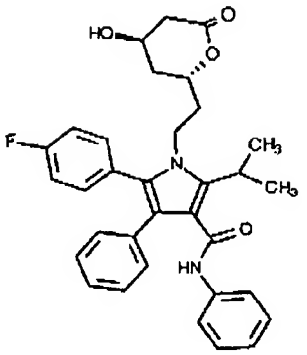
to form atorvastatin sodium salt solution;

(b) addition of the atorvastatin sodium salt solution to an aqueous calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution; and

(c) isolation by filtration and drying to afford amorphous atorvastatin calcium salt.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis of atorvastatin lactone of formula II



is accomplished using sodium hydroxide, resulting in an atorvastatin sodium salt solution.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the atorvastatin sodium salt solution is added to an aqueous calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution containing seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium.

Claim 5 (original): The process of claim 4 wherein the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.05 to about 10 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The process of claim 4 where the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The process of claim 4 where the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.2 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the atorvastatin sodium salt solution is added to a calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution without

seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.85 to about 1.05 equivalents.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.9 to about 1.0 equivalents.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is about 0.98 equivalents.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.4 to 1.5 equivalents.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.45 to 0.55 equivalents.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.5 equivalents.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis reaction requires from about 1 to 24 hours.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis

reaction requires from about 10 to 20 hours.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis reaction requires from about 12 to 14 hours.

Claim 18 (previously presented): Amorphous atorvastatin calcium substantially free of residual solvents when prepared by the process of any of claims 1, 3, 4 or 8.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The process of any of claims 1, 3, 4 or 8 wherein the product is substantially free of residual solvents.

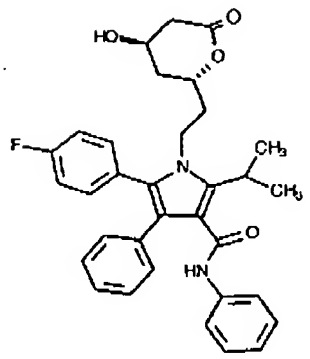
Claim 20 (previously presented): The use of amorphous atorvastatin calcium when prepared by the process of claim 19 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for treating hypercholesterolemia.

Claim 21 (original): For use in inhibiting cholesterol synthesis in a human suffering from hypercholesterolemia, a compound of claim 18.

Claim 22 (original): The compound of claim 18 wherein the residual solvents are selected from water and methanol.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium which comprises:

(a) hydrolysis of the atorvastatin lactone of formula II



to form atorvastatin salt solution;

(b) addition of the atorvastatin salt solution to an aqueous calcium salt solution; and

(c) isolation by filtration and drying to afford amorphous atorvastatin calcium salt.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Use of amorphous atorvastatin calcium substantially free of residual solvents when prepared by the process of claim 19 in the treatment of hypercholesterolemia.